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Shaw, Albert. *Political Problems of American Development.* Pp. vii, 268. Price, \$1.50. New York: Columbia University Press, 1907.

This work is indispensable to every student of American political institutions. The author has not devoted himself to a study of the structure of government, but rather to its actual operation and to an analysis of the forces that have determined our national policy. There are few men in the country who could undertake such a work and carry it to successful conclusion. In every chapter the author shows not only his broad grasp of the subject, but also his ability to interpret the thought of the American people on great national problems. His success in this respect is not surprising to those who have followed the excellent summary of current events which appears each month in the "Review of Reviews." This volume will be of equal value to the university student and to the great body of citizens who are seeking light and guidance in national affairs. The author holds no brief, and his book is not an argument for any partisan policy. It is a clear judgment of a keen observer and careful student of American affairs. This book will rank with Henry Jones Ford's "The Rise and Growth of American Politics," as a study of the facts of American political development.

L. S. ROWE.

University of Pennsylvania.

Sumner, W. G. *Folkways.* Pp. v, 692. Price, \$3.00. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1907.

A generation ago, Professor Sumner was one of the ablest advocates of free trade in this country. The same clear thinking and power of expression which marked him then are revealed in this volume. The present work is an excursion made necessary by the larger study of society on which he has been working for many years. The range of the author's reading is indicated by the fact that sixteen pages are needed for the index of works cited.

"The folkways are habits of the individual and customs of the society which arise from efforts to satisfy needs." They win traditional authority. "Then they become regulative for succeeding generations and take on the character of a social force." They arise unconsciously and "are not creations of human purpose and wit." They may be founded on mistaken inferences; they may even be harmful. By discussion and comparison they are harmonised as philosophy develops recognition for principles. Folkways are of supreme importance. "The life of society consists in making folkways and applying them." The mores "are the ways of doing things which are current in a society to satisfy human needs and desires, together with the faiths, notions, codes, and standards of well living, which inhere in those ways." Thus arise conventions which, though often denounced, are necessary. The mores are rigid and inert and change with difficulty. A society is usually unconscious of its own mores till it comes in contact with different peoples. The mores are seldom altered by direct application of intelligence.

The general theory being posited in the first two chapters, the author thenceforth makes more scientific application of it. In the balance of the book such topics as The Struggle for Existence, Labor, Slavery, Cannibalism, The Marriage Institution, Incest, Asceticism, Education, are treated *in extenso* with a wealth of illustration.

By many Professor Sumner's views would be considered radical in the extreme. There are no final standards. "The mores can make anything right and prevent condemnation of anything." Yet, no one can take exception to the spirit and method of the author no matter how much he may dissent from his philosophy. The author is seeking to establish the facts. Nevertheless, the criticism of many existing conceptions and institutions is keen and cutting. The book is decidedly thought-provoking. The discussion will not fail to make an impression. Personally, I have found the book of great value. Professor Sumner is not so much seeking to establish a theory as to explain certain human institutions. Because of the frank and honest character of the study it is to be highly commended particularly for advanced students of sociology.

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Trevelyan, Sir George O. *The American Revolution.* Part III. Pp. xii, 492.

Price, \$2.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1907.

From the time when Burke wrote its contemporary record in the "Annual Register," the English Whigs have given us the most readable histories of the American Revolution, and this, the latest contribution from that prolific source, fully maintains the standard of literary excellence. For an English writer to favor the American side does not necessarily mean an unbiased mind. The English party conflicts of that date were bitter and have been inherited as family feuds, while the present interest which all Englishmen feel in the problems of colonial government renders their discussion of many phases of Revolutionary history less detached than that of American students. Mr. Trevelyan has his full share of prejudices. He hates the Tories, both English and Americans; he has little use for the French, and belittles Vergennes by exalting Beaumarchias; he can see no good in any opponent of Washington, and no fault in his supporters. He is devoted to the Whigs, to Washington, Morris and Franklin, and to the Quakers. In fact, scarcely an individual crosses the page without receiving the stamp of the author's judgment. These judgments are founded on an acquaintance with the literature and correspondence of the period probably more extensive than that of any previous writer on the subject, and the result is a narrative as vivid as a source and with a breadth of information and of views impossible to a contemporary writer.

This substantial volume covers a period of eighteen months, but this is not the result of an uncritical inclusion of unimportant matters, but of the detailed study of the really important events of the period. The significant military operations are given with an excellent comprehension of their